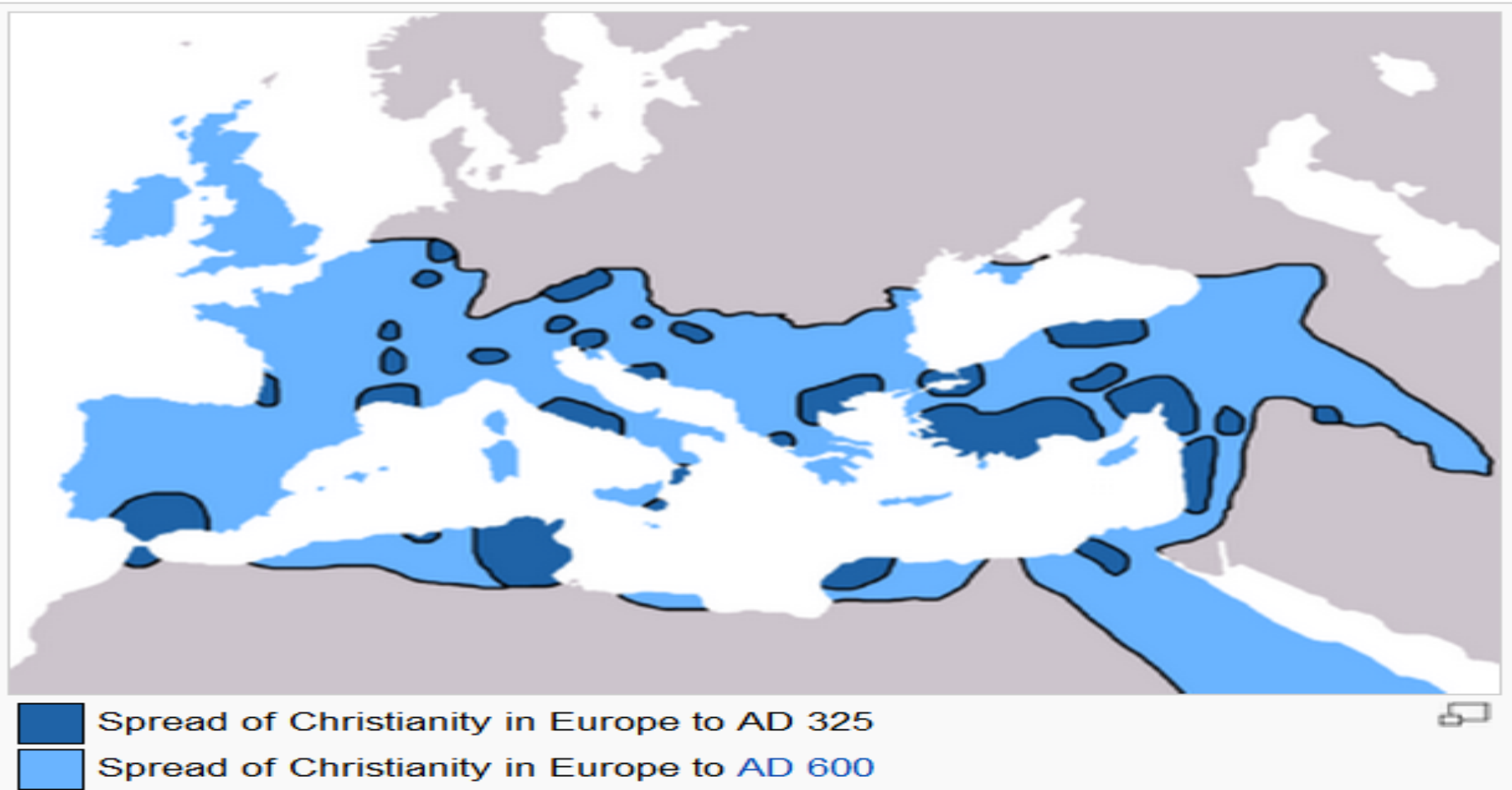


Chapter 10: Eastern Christiandom Byzantines/Russia

Chapter 10

“Christendom”

People living in regions of the world in which Christianity is the dominant religion



Religion in Europe Today



Constantine and Justinian

- Byzantium = name of Eastern Empire (of what was left of Rome, after it was divided)
- Emperor Constantine= Constantinople
 - New capital, Today: Istanbul, Turkey
- Constantine, Justinian=Major emperors
 - Recaptured most of Rome's old empire
 - Ruled as a dictator with absolute power





 *The Byzantine Empire Under Justinian. Justinian's reconquests of North Africa, Italy, and the coast of Spain severely strained the empire's resources.*

Creating the Imperial Capital

- Rebuilt crumbling forts and walls of Constantinople
- Great defense walls built around Constantinople



The Capital: Constantinople



- Called New Rome
 - Excellent location for trade
 - Silk Roads
- Largest city in Europe
 - Nearly 1 million people



Constantinople



- The city of Constantinople, built on a peninsula surrounded by three bodies of water: the Bosphorus, Sea of Marmara, and the Golden Horn.
- Notice the iron chain, called a boom, across the Golden Horn, it prevented enemy ships from sailing into that area.

Emperor Justinian (527- 565)

- Created uniform code of laws known as the Justinian Code
 - Contained 5000 laws – still considered useful
 - Regulated areas of Byzantine life: Marriage, slavery, property etc...
- Marries Theodora
 - Rules as Empress
 - The people do NOT like her



He [Justinian] was in position to take his pick of the Roman Empire and select for his bride the most nobly born woman of the world, who had enjoyed the most exclusive upbringing, and was thoroughly acquainted with the claims of modesty, and had lived in an atmosphere of chastity, Procopius, *Secret History*









Justinian Reconquered most of the Western Roman Empire

BYZANTINE EMPIRE UNDER JUSTINIAN



The Hippodrome Arena



The Hippodrome Arena



Nika Riots

- Hippodrome – Citizens enjoyed free entertainment
- **Nika (victory) Riots** – citizens upset at the government (Justinian) gathered at the Hippodrome wanting to overthrow Justinian
- Locks in his people, send his army in
 - Massacre
- About 30,000 people killed

Byzantium under Justinian

- Revival of art and architecture
- Built monuments and Churches
 - Hagia Sophia “Holy Wisdom”= most splendid church in the Christian world
 - Domes structures – was largest church for over 1000 years



Hagia Sophia



Southwestern entrance: Xth century mosaic portraying Emperors Justinian (left) and Constantine (right) offering Hagia Sophia and the City of Constantinople to Mary the Theotokos



Mosaic art – Use of many small glass tiles to put a picture together



Imperial Gate: Xth century mosaic portraying Emperor Leo VI (886-912)





Later – was turned into a Mosque after the Byzantine Empire was conquered





Source: Procopius describes the Hagia Sophia, a magnificent church upon its completion in 537.

In height it rises to the very heavens. . . . A spherical-shaped dome . . . makes it exceedingly beautiful: from the lightness of the building it does not appear to rest upon a solid foundation, but to . . . be suspended from heaven by the fabled golden chain. . . . The entire ceiling is covered with pure gold, which adds glory to the beauty, though the rays of light reflected upon the gold from the marble surpass it in beauty. . . . And whenever anyone enters this church to pray, he understands at once that it is not by any human strength or skill, but by the influence of God, that this work has been perfected. And so his mind is lifted up toward God. . . . Moreover, it is impossible to describe the treasure of gold and silver plate and gems, which the Emperor Justinian has presented to it. . . .

Mosaic of Justinian, Mary, Baby Jesus, and Constantine – 500s CE



Justinian, on the left, is carrying the Hagia Sophia. Constantine, on the right, is carrying the city of Constantinople itself. What does each appear to be doing with the structures they are holding? What is this icon trying to say about the Byzantine Empire?



Look at the depiction of Justinian within this mosaic. What features identify the emperor? How do the other officials depicted indicate the powerful groups within Justinian's empire

- Empire reached its greatest extent under Justinian (mid-sixth century)



Justinian I
r. 527-565 CE



Iconoclasm

- “Icon” is Greek for “image” or “painting”
 - More specifically, icons came to typify the art of the Orthodox Christian Church.
- Use of Icons in religious services
- Iconoclasm - refers to the destruction of images or hostility toward visual representations in general. More specifically, the word is used for the Iconoclastic Controversy that shook the Byzantine Empire for more than 100 years.

Iconoclastic Controversy



Khludov Psalter (detail), 9th century. The image represents the Iconoclast theologian, John the Grammarian, and an iconoclast bishop destroying an image of Christ. (State Historical Museum, Moscow)

Due to the fact that the empire was constantly being attacked by outside forces, the Byzantine's needed to come up with a weapon to help defend the region

Greek Fire

Helped to hold off the Arabs for a bit



HOT RECEPTION — The Byzantine Empire's most terrifying weapon had to be Greek fire — a flammable oily mixture that was projected onto enemy ships and soldiers. Not even water could douse the flames.



Byzantine Empire Weakens Eventually Falls

- Bubonic (or Black **Plague**) hits Constantinople
- 10,000 people died daily
- Were **constantly** being **attacked by Huns**
- The walls around Constantinople and its strategic location allowed it to hold out for 100 years (until the rest of the **empire fell to the Ottoman Turks**)

Byzantine Cultural Influence

- Preserving much of Greek learning
- Greek Philosophy
- Religion of Eastern Orthodoxy spread widely to the Slavic-speaking people in the Balkans and Russia
- Cyrillic – alphabet based on Greek letters, with which Slavic languages could be written

Byzantine's Economic Influence

- Economic: the bezant – widely used currency
- Central to long-distance trade in Eurasia (**trans-Eurasian Trade**) with commercial links to Western Europe, Russia, Central-Asia, The Islamic World, and China



Byzantine Empire Falls

- By 1085, Byzantine territory shrank
 - Western European aggressors
 - Catholic Crusaders
 - Turkic Muslim Invaders
- empire fell to the Ottoman Turks 1453
- As regions were overtaken by Islam, Byzantines looked to the North (Balkans and Russia) to continue their legacy



Decline of the Byzantine Empire, 1100 CE

The “Latin West”

- Small competing states
- Germanic culture with some Roman influence
 - **Romance** languages
- More rural, less populated
- Less trade and wealth
- Roman Catholic Church was an independent organization
 - **Latin** language

The Byzantine Empire

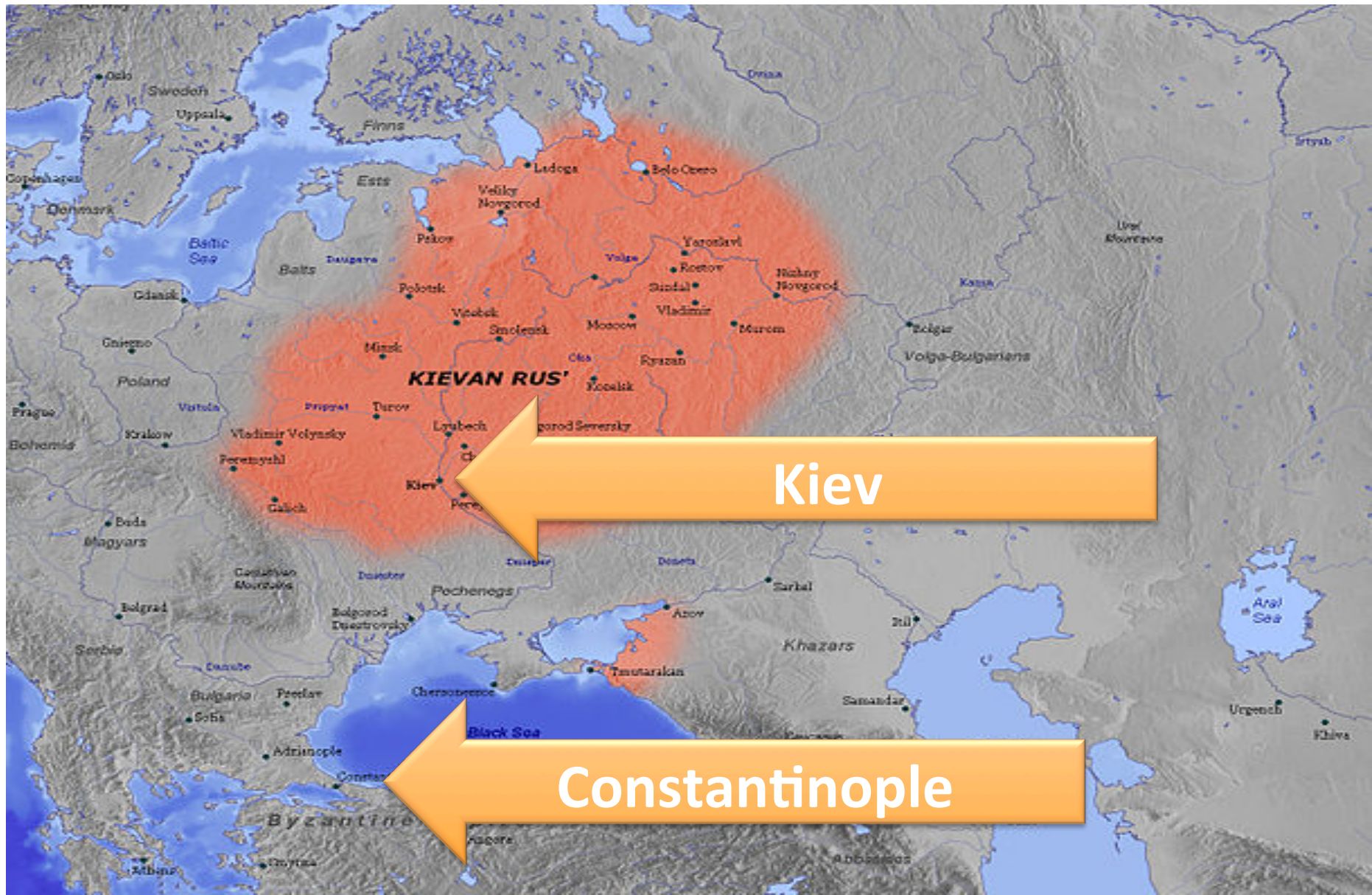
- Maintained the centralized Roman state
- Maintain Greco-Roman culture
- Greek** language
- More urbanized, higher population density
- More trade and wealth
- Eastern Orthodox Church was controlled by the state



The Rise of Russia

- Slavs=first ethnic Russian people
- Kiev- Most important city – located in present-day Ukraine
 - built up regular trade and contacts with Constantinople
- Heavily influenced by Byzantine Empire – Russian Orthodox Christianity
 - Rulers looked to Justinian's Code (laws), architecture, religion – even used Tsar (Czar) title
- Mongols take over and invade Russia – force them to be a tribute (tax) to maintain peace

Kievan Rus – 900s CE



Vladimir I – Grand Prince of Kiev



Vladimir converts to Orthodox Christianity



Russian Lands

Located on borderland region of many trade routes

Novgorod became a vibrant trading center and hubs for long-distance



Saint Sophia Cathedral, Novgorod



Deliberate imitation of Hagia Sophia

History and Government

- Ivan the Great (Ivan III): drove out Mongols to become independent
- Ivan the Terrible! (Ivan IV): First Czar of Russia
 - Crushed opposition to his power
- Peter the Great (Czar Peter I): Came to power in 1600s
 - Modernized Russia, enlarged territory, built a strong military and developed trade with Europe





Russian Architecture Influenced by Byzantine Style







